Orthopaedically handicapped persons

*380. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plans to involve orthopaedically handicapped people in the mainstream of life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that no user friendly transport system is available to such handicapped people in the country; and

(d) steps proposed to make transport more user friendly to handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) The subject of Relief to the disabled and unemployable is the responsibility of the State Governments under Entry 9 in List II (State List). The Ministry of Welfare, Govt. of India plays a supporting and coordinating role.

The thrust of all the programmes/ schemes implemented by the Ministry of Welfare for handicaped welfare is to bring the disabled persons including orthopaedically handicapped persons in the mainstream of life. Major programmes/schemes of the Ministry for welfare for achieving the objective mentioned above, are as follows:-

(1) Scheme of Assistance to Organiations for the Disabled:—

Under the Scheme, assistance is given to voluntary organisations to the extent of 90% of the total cost (95% for rural areas) for providing facilities like education, vocational training, counselling, placement services, awarene generation etc. The 8th Plan allocation under the scheme is Rs. 33 crores. Total expenditure incurred during 1994-95 was Rs. 15.70 crores (Rs. 14 crores Plan and Rs. 1.70 crores Non-Plan).

(2) Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids & Appliances:—

The Source envisages supply of aids and appliances to the handicapped persons free of cost to those having income less than Rs. 1200/- per month and 50 % of the cost to those having income between Rs. 1201/- to Rs. 2500/- per month. The Scheme is implemented through both voluntary organisations and government agencies. The 8th Plan allocation under the Scheme is Rs. 55 crores. Expenditure incurred during 1994-95 is Rs. 15.68 crores.

(3) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Establishment of Special Schools—

Under the Scheme, grant is given to voluntary organisations to the extent of 90 per cent for establishment of Special schools and upgradation of existing schools. Preference is given to those areas where there are no special schools. The budget allocation for 8th Plan is Rs. 12 crores. Expenditure incurred in 1994-95 was Rs. 0.50 crores.

(4) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons:—

The Scheme envisages to provide financial assitance to NGOs in a phased manner for rehabilitation of leprosy-cured persons both in rural and urban areas, for which assistance is given upto 90 per cent of the project, cost for involving programmes like awareness generation, early intervention, education and vocational training, economic rehabilitation, social integration etc. The 8th Plan allocation under the Scheme is Rs. 3.50 crores. Expenditure incurred in 1994-95 was Rs. 0.90 crores.

(5) Assistance to Organisations for Manpower Development in the field of Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation:—

Assitance is given to voluntary organisations for running the training courses for teachers in the area of cerebral palsy and mental retardation recognised by the Rehabilitation Council of India. The 8th Plan allocation under the Scheme is Rs. 5.00 crores. Expenditure incurred in 1994-95 was Rs. 0.30 crores.

(6) Employment of Handicapped:—

The objective of the Scheme is to help disabled persons in getting meaningful employment through Special Cells in normal Employment Exchanges which are located throughout the country. At present there are 55 Special Cells and 23 Special Employment Exchanges. Scheme is implemented through State Governments/Union Territories. Extent of assistance is 100 per cent for Special Cells and 80 per cent for Special Employment Exchanges. During 1994-95 total expenditure incurred Rs. 0.20 crore.

(7) S&T Project in Mission Mode:—

To provide suitable and cost effective aids and appliances through application of technology and also to improve mobility, employment opportunities and integration of the disabled in the mainstream, Scheme of S&T Project in Mission Mode was launched in 1988. So far about 45 Projects have been undertaken under the Scheme. In 1994-95, 9 new projects were sanctioned and the total expenditure incurred was Rs. 0.50 crore.

(8) District Rehabilitation Centres:—

The District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme was launched in 1985 for providing comprehensive rehabiliation services to rural disabled which include early intervention and surgical correction, fitment of aids and appliances; therapeutic services like physiotherapy, speech therapy etc., educational services in special/integrated schools, vocational training, job placement, awareness generation etc. Scheme is [illegible], located in different parts of the country. In the year 1994-95, an exenditure of Rs. 2 crores was incurred.

(9) Nation Awards:—

On the World Disabled Day, the President of India gives away following Awards for outstanding work in the area of handicapped welfare:—(a) Best Employer; (b) Best Handicapped Employee/Self Employed (c) Best individual; (d) Best institution; (e) Placemeent Officers and (f) Technology Awards.

The Ministry of Welfare has established four National Institutes in four major disability areas, which are apex level organisations responsible for research, training documentation and developing model service programmes. These institutes are as follows:—

1. National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.

2. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Bombay.

3. National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

4. National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.

Besides, there are two other apex level institutions which provide manpower training and services to orthopaedically handicapped. These are :—

1. Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

2. National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research, Cuttack.

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation, Kanpur Manufacturers standard aids & appliances. In addition, the Ministry of Welfare has the following schemes in the pipeline:—

1. National Programme for Rehabilitation of the Disabled:

Comprehensive rehabilitation services would be provided to rural disabled population through voluntary organisations under the scheme. All disabilities would be covered in selected districts of the country where the programme is to be initiated.

2 National Finance & Development Corporation for the Handicapped :-

With a view to promote economic rehabilitation of the handicapped people, it is proposed to set up a National Finance & Development Corporation for the Handicapped. The main objective of the Corporation would be to provide loans on easy terms to handicapped persons to promote self-employment. A provision of Rs. 1 crore has been kept for 1995-96.

3. National Institute for the Multiple Handicapped:—

It is further proposed to set up a National Institute for the Multiple Handicapped which would be a registered society to cater to the needs of the multiple handicapped persons. The institute would initiate programmes for manpower development, research and documentation. A provision of Rs. 0.24 crore has been kept for the purpose for 1995-96.

4. National Trust for the Mentally Retarded:—

A National Trust for Welfare of the Mentally Retarded is proposed to be set up with the objective to provide guardianship and foster care and protect the guardianship rights of the persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy. A provision of Rs. 1.25 crores has been kept for the purpose for 1995-96.

5. Legislation for the Handicapped:—

A draft Bill called "Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Bill 1995" is under consideration in order to ensure access to services like prevention, early detection and intervention, pre-school education, special education, vocational training, employment, placement etc. The Bill has been considered and debated upon in various for as including National Council for Handicapped Welfare and the Conference of State Welfare Ministers, Secretaries, Social Welfare of State Govts./UT Administrations and the senior officers of the concerned Ministries/departments of Govt. of India.

Creation of barrier-free environment

Easy access to people with disabilities in public places and public transport is considered essential. The achievement of this objective is not an easy task. The concerted efforts are required on the part of not only the Ministry of Welfare but also by related Ministries which have a bearing on the subject-matter like the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Surface Transport, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Rural Development, etc. To coordinate the efforts of various Ministries involved, a National Advisory Committee for creation of a barrier free environment has been constituted. The Committee sits from time to time to pursue the matter with the concerned Ministries. It also attempts to create public awareness which is considered vital. The proposed Legislation referred to above contains provisions relating to barrier free environment including user-fiendly transport.

Concessions/Facilities of various Central Ministries/Departments:

Concessions/facilities are provided by various Central Ministries like Ministry of Railways, Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Commerce, Department of Revenue, Department of Expenditure, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Education, Ministry of Surface Transport, etc. Various State Governments/UTs also give concessions to handicapped persons like employment allowance, financial assistance for free/concessional travel in buses, scholarships, old age pension etc.

Growth in the production of Potatoes

4010. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of "Potato" in the country have